Textiles Mills under NTC and Private Sector

249. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile mills are being run by the National Textiles Corporation together with the names thereof;

(b) the total number of textile mills being run in the private sector together with the names and the locations thereof;

(c) the actual production and capacity of NTC and private mills at present Separately

(d) whether the production and capacity of NTC mills is lower than the private sector mills;

(e) if so the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by Government to increase the production and capacity of public sector mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) There are 120 mills under the National Textile Corporation and 1119 mills in the private sector. Details of the names and location of these mills will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The NTC has a commissioned capacity of 29.29 lakh spindles and 25,217 looms as on 30.6.1995.The production of NTC Mills during 1994-95 was 57.60 million kgs. of market yarn and 102.56 million mtrs., of cloth . The private mills have an installed capacity of 216 lakh spindles, 1.75 lakh rotors and 76,324 looms. The production of market yarn and cloth inthe private sector mills during 1994-95 was 1631 million kgs. and 1305 million sq. mtrs. respectively

(d) to (f) The lower capacity and production of NTC mills is due to the fact that the NTC mills are facing problems of obsolete machinery, excess man-power and acute shortage of working capital. The Government have approved a revised Turn Around Strategy for modernisation of NTC mills, involving modernisation of 79 mills at an outlay of Rs. 2005.72 crores, merger of 36 unviable mills into 18 viable units, etc. In view of the fact that the cases fo 8 out of 9 subsidiaries of NTC are before the BIFR, the modernisation plan has been submitted to the BIFR of its approval before implementation.

†Written Answers to Starred and Unstarred Questions set for the 27th November, 1995

Proposal for Upgradation of Cochin Pepper-Spices Trade Association Exchange

*1. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to upgrade the Cochin Pepper-Spices Trade Association Exchange;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the Exchange;

(c) whether there is any proposal to open up a trading floor at Kualalumpur; and

(d) what benefits will accrue to Indian pepper and spices farmers when the project is commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government have approved, in principle, setting up of an International Pepper Futures Exchange in Kochi, Broadly, the proposal is to permit international participation in the proposed commodity futures exchange as

†The sitting of the Rajya Sabha on 27th November, 95 was adjourned as a mark of respect in memory of Shri Shakar Dayal Singh and Shri Pragada Kotaiah. Answers to questions put down in lists for that day were laid on the Table of the House on 28th November, 1995.

per the established international practices. Under this Exchange, it is proposed to also have a trading, floor at Kualalumpur, Malaysia. To facilitate simultaneous trading, fully electronic Online Telecommunication links are to be established between the two centres. Additionally, there would be a Clearing House mechanism to act as a guarantor for all the transactions that are made through the proposed exchange. A Steering Committee has also been set up to work out and finalise the details.

(d) When commissioned, the International Pepper Futures Exchange is expected to impart a degree of stability to the volatile price behaviour for the Commodity, facilitate price discovery, and provide a hedging mechanism that will, to an extent, insure buyers and sellers against risks of price fluctuations.

National Minimum Wages

*2. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on its proposal for national minimum wage;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) The issue relating to formulation of a National Minimum Wage has been considered in various fora in the past. The National Commission on Labour (1969) was of the view that such a wage in the sense of a uniform minimum monetary remuneration for the country as a whole is neither feasible nor desirable. This subject was also considered by the Indian Labour Conference (ILC) held in November, 1985. The ILC expressed the view that "till such time a National Wage is feasible it would be desirable to have regional minimum wage in regard to which the Central Government may lay down the guidelines. The minimum wages should be revised at regular periodicity and should be linked with rise in cost of living." Accordingly, the Government have issued guidelines on Regional Minimum Wages in July, 1987 to all the State Governments and Union Territory administrations. The State Governments/ U.T. Administrations were also requested to provide for variable Dearness Allowance linked to consumer price index, as a part of minimum wages, to be revised every six months.

The matter has also since been considered in the ILC meeting held on 23rd and 24th of November, 1995. The ILC has wanted further investigation, in the present circumstances, of the scope for introduction of uniform minimum wages in the country.

Raising of resources by CIL

*3. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited has a programme to raise its resources;

(b) if so, the target set by Coal India Limited in this regard;

(c) whether the Coal India Limited has made achievements in various fields during 1994-95;

(d) if so, the details thereof with particular reference to distribution of coal; and

(e) the aims and objectives for raising the resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Presumably the Hon'ble member is referring to raising of financial resources for plan investments. If so, the answer is in the affirmative.

(b) Total plan outlay for Coal India Limited for the year 1995-96 is Rs. 2260 crores. The financing pattern of the plan,